God's Plan: To Make You a Brother of Christ

We come into the world, prepare for life, work, have children, grandchildren, enjoy this life more or less, and then it all ends at the grave. It seems that this is all life has to offer. Upon closer inspection, we can see that most people around the globe just consume this life and are not concerned with finding out if there is anything after death.

We believe that the most important thing in this short life we live is for each of us to know exactly God’s plan for us humans, to know what purpose God had when He created man.

We want to offer you an answer regarding the purpose of this life we live on earth. We hope that what is written will be a guide for those who believe in their hearts that God is the creator, both of the Universe and of us.

We observe that when we are asked to give an answer about what will be after this life is consumed and what we must do to live eternally in God’s Kingdom, the vast majority of people live in total ignorance.

Due to ignorance, we can see today how many crowds of people are manipulated with various theories that explain how one can reach God’s Kingdom.

One of them is the theory of purgatory. This theory, found in Catholicism, says that you can obtain forgiveness of sins through the payment of indulgences, which ensures your entry into God’s Kingdom and implicitly eternal life.

In Orthodoxy, we find alms and prayers for the dead, then the tolls through which the deceased must pass, and many other things through which man hopes he can somehow buy forgiveness of sins.

The same situation is found in most evangelical, Protestant, and neo- Protestant churches. The general belief is that if we admire God for what He has done for us, if we believe in the sacrifice on the cross, if we confess our sins, if we have a form of godliness, we will obtain salvation which is reduced to the forgiveness of sins.

It seems that very few realize that repentance and faith in the sacrifice on the cross are just some of the things a person must do at the beginning of their life of faith. Lord Jesus warns us that the lack of knowledge of the Scriptures is one of the things that keeps man in this ignorance. (Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. Matthew 22:29)

Most of us stop at repentance, at the work on the cross... at the covenant in the water of baptism, at the forgiveness of sins. For many, the work of salvation stops here, without realizing that God's plan includes both the restoration and the perfection of man's character.

Almost no one believes that to be found worthy of the life that awaits us in His eternal Kingdom, we must grow to reach the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (And he gave some, apostles; and some...pastors and teachers; for the perfecting of the saints, till we all come...unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-13)

This plan of God was made in eternity, before man was created. The purpose of the heavenly Father was to make brothers of the Lord Jesus, and it is the most complex and grand plan ever devised.

Only forgiven of sins – Is this God's Plan?

In the following pages, we aim to thoroughly examine God's plan, about which, if we are honest, we must confess that we did not find out much when we began our spiritual searches.

Each of us, when we arrived at a church, received from them glasses with a doctrinal confessional filter with which to read the Bible. We studied the Bible with their glasses and they taught us what we must do to be saved.

Most of us were taught that God did everything for us, that through faith in the sacrifice on the cross, salvation is obtained, which is reduced to the forgiveness of sins. We were taught that it is not possible to reach the perfection of character during life, and salvation is reduced to the work done at the cross.

Thus, many were convinced that after being born again, God is somewhere far away and does not get too involved in a person's life. Many understand that the work of the Holy Spirit with man is limited to just a few external things, such as speaking a few words in another language, a few miracles, prophecies, without the Holy Spirit being directly involved in transforming the person to perfect their character.

We are left, therefore, to assume that God will perfect us through an unknown formula, which He will apply after a person's death.

And this is where most of us remain. We went to church, had our seat, confessed our sins, were baptized, sang, supported the teachings of the church we belong to, lived a more godly life, visited the sick, and thus we will enter God's Kingdom.

We were taught that we will not enter by what we will do, but because we obtained forgiveness of sins by grace, through faith in His sacrifice, because there is no man without sin.

However, to reach the heavenly Kingdom, to be saved, the standard of God's Kingdom has very strict requirements; we must reach the perfection required by the status of a citizen of heaven. (Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. Matthew 5:48)

Man must have a credible answer to these requirements of God. So the question we must each ask ourselves is: Do we also have a part in the work of salvation?

Regarding this part of ours, the teaching of the Holy Scriptures shows us the entire plan of God which aims at the perfection of man's character. This plan includes, besides the forgiveness of sins, our growth as disciples in the school of Christ, until we all reach the measure of the stature of His fullness.

Shortly after the ascension of the Lord Jesus to heaven, besides the teaching of the Lord (the doctrine of the perfection of man's character), Satan came with a falsified doctrine (the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins), which offers salvation without costs on the part of man, limiting itself only to the forgiveness of sins.

The teaching of Scripture tells us that besides the forgiveness of sins through the sacrifice on the cross, we must also reach the perfection of our character, which requires the crucifixion of the flesh (putting off the old man) and the transformation of the person (putting on the new man made after the image of God).

To reach the measure of the stature of Christ, the Holy Scripture teaches us that man must fully trust in the Word of Christ, then must repent, deny himself, and make It is enough for the disciple a discipleship covenant which aims for the that he be as his master! disciple to become like his Teacher. (It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord. Matthew 10:25)

Any person, no matter how simple, understands that if someone were to reach the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, if they had His long patience, His love, His gentleness... they would have free entry into God's Kingdom. This is the only thing that can give us full confidence on the day of judgment.

Today there are very few people who accept and put into practice this doctrine of the perfection of man's character. (Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. Luke 13:23,24)

Upon closer inspection, we can easily notice that most choose to remain at the salvation which consists of the forgiveness of sins through faith in the sacrifice of the cross.

The doctrine of atonement or forgiveness of sins. Satan, through people subservient to him, brought a teaching that says God reduces salvation only to the forgiveness of sins because man cannot overcome sin. In this false doctrine, there are several offers through which you can be saved.

There is a first teaching, specific to the early centuries but which is very current even now. It is a cheap offer, with which Satan comes to the ignorant man who does not know either the Scriptures or God's requirements. This teaching assures man that salvation is reduced only to the forgiveness of sins and is obtained through the payment of indulgences, alms, rituals. (we find here Catholicism and Orthodoxy)

The sinful man who does not know the Word of God easily accepts this offer because it allows him to live his life in the flesh and assures him a cheap formula through which he can obtain salvation.

Another teaching, also cheap, assures man that salvation is obtained "by faith alone" the price for the forgiveness of unconquered sins (past, present, and future) being paid by Lord Jesus. (we find here Protestant confessions, see the reformation of Luther, Calvin...)

This offer of Satan assures man that the perfection of character during this life is not possible and gives him a cheap formula through which to obtain salvation. Believe in the sacrifice on the cross and obtain salvation which is reduced again to the forgiveness of sins. (Lord Jesus paid it)

There is a third teaching, specific to the last centuries, which is closer to God's plan. It addresses those who are not satisfied with these cheap offers and who seek more.

This teaching says that salvation can be obtained through faith in the sacrifice on the cross and through repentance, followed by partial sanctification, without having as an objective self-denial, discipleship, and reaching the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. (we find here the neo-Protestant movement)

We find in this doctrine, besides being born again, a life of sanctification, but without victory over sin, the general belief being in this teaching as well that the perfection of character is not possible in this life.

It can be easily observed that repentance, followed by incomplete sanctification, (a form of godliness) without self-denial, which still leaves room for living in the flesh

which does not have a real finalization, cannot bring man to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

It is the case of the person who still keeps things from the flesh; anger, idle words, greed, working under the table, defamation, going to the beach, wasting time on Facebook, YouTube...

It is quite clear that the person who embraces this teaching in which there remain unconquered sins, is forced to remain at the doctrine of the forgiveness of sins. This implies that perfection is to be done by God through an unknown formula, at the moment of death or at the resurrection.

We can notice that Satan, to deceive the person who does not make salvation the target of diligent research, used besides alms, indulgences... also the sacrifice of the cross, offering people salvation without too high costs on their part.

To not be deceived, it is very important to research what the role of the sacrifice on the cross is, to know what place the Lord’s sacrifice has in the plan of salvation.

This post is an excerpt from the booklet “Transformed into the Image of Christ”, which you can read in full, free of charge. More studies and resources for spiritual awakening are available at https://www.unmodifiedword.com.